

60,427-619; 2004P02737US

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A retainer apparatus for attaching a component to a vehicle structure comprising:

a molded component including a base portion defining a bottom surface having at least one attachment member for attachment to a vehicle structural component, said attachment member being integrally formed as one piece with said base portion;

said attachment member including a cylindrical body portion extending out from said bottom surface to a distal end having a retention member that cooperates with the vehicle ~~structure~~ structural component to retain said molded component to the vehicle structure; and

said retention member including a plurality of flanges spaced apart from one another and extending out radially from said cylindrical body portion.

2. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said attachment member and said base portion are interconnected by at least one continuous unbroken surface.

3. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said attachment member extends in a direction transverse to said bottom surface.

4. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 including a pad formed about at least a portion of said cylindrical body portion by a lower mold portion and wherein said base portion defines a top surface facing opposite from said bottom surface and including at least one opening extending through said base portion from said top surface to said bottom surface adjacent said

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cylindrical body portion, said opening for receiving an upper mold portion at a predetermined distance apart from said lower mold portion wherein flange thickness is defined by said predetermined distance.

5. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said plurality of flanges comprises three flanges spaced approximately ninety degrees apart from one another.

6. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 including at least one pad integrally formed in said bottom surface about at least a portion of the circumference of said cylindrical body.

7. (Previously Presented) An air cleaner housing assembly comprising:
a main housing component;
a base component connectible to said main housing component and defining a bottom surface having at least one attachment member for attachment to a vehicle structure, said attachment member being integrally formed as one piece with said base portion;
said attachment member including a cylindrical body portion with a base extending to a distal end having a retention member that cooperates with the vehicle structure to retain said base component to said vehicle structure; and
said retention member including a plurality of flanges spaced apart from one another and extending out radially from said cylindrical body portion.

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8. (Original) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said attachment member and said base are interconnected by at least one continuous unbroken surface.

9. (Original) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said base component defines a top surface facing opposite from said bottom surface and including at least one opening extending through said base component from said top surface to said bottom surface adjacent said base, said opening for receiving a first mold portion to form said flanges.

10. (Original) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 9 including a pad portion extending outwardly from said bottom surface and being integrally formed about at least a portion of the circumference of said base by a second mold portion, said pad portion defining an engagement surface that cooperates with said vehicle structure.

11. (Original) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein said vehicle structure includes a grommet mounted to a vehicle structural component, said retention member being inserted into said grommet with said engagement surface cooperating with said grommet to accommodate variable grommet heights.

12. (Original) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said plurality of flanges comprises three flanges spaced approximately ninety degrees apart from one another.

13.-18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said molded component includes a main housing portion attached to said base portion at a first attachment interface and wherein said base portion is attachable to the vehicle structural component at a second attachment interface separate from the first attachment interface.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein each flange includes a base that extends to a distal tip wherein said base is narrower than said distal tip.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 20 wherein said distal tip is defined by an arcuate surface.

22. (Previously Presented) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said base component is connectible to said main housing component at a first attachment interface and wherein said base component is attachable to the vehicle structure at a second attachment interface separate from said first attachment interface.

23. (Previously Presented) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein said at least one attachment member is formed at said second attachment interface.

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24. (Previously Presented) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein each flange includes a base that extends to a distal tip wherein said base is narrower than said distal tip.

25. (Previously Presented) A housing assembly as set forth in claim 24 wherein said distal tip is defined by an arcuate surface.

26. (Previously Presented) A retainer apparatus for attaching a component to a vehicle structure comprising:

a molded component including a base portion defining a bottom surface having at least one attachment member adapted for attachment to a vehicle structural component, said attachment member being integrally formed as one piece with said base portion;

said attachment member including a cylindrical body portion extending out from said bottom surface to a distal end having a retention member adapted to retain said molded component to the vehicle structure; and

said retention member including a plurality of flanges spaced apart from one another and extending out radially from said cylindrical body portion wherein each of said flanges includes a base portion formed at said cylindrical body portion, said base portion extending outwardly from said cylindrical body portion to a distal tip portion that defines an arcuate surface, said base portion being narrower than said distal tip portion.